


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has made claims 1-44 subject to a Restriction Requirement. Group I, noted above, is designated as a method of making a composite. Group II, covering claims 22 and 44, is designated as an alloy composite. Applicant understands the Restriction theory, but submits that all of the pending claims are part of a single inventive concept. The inventive concept relies on the fabrication method recited in the Application, e.g., in claim 1. Moreover, Applicant submits that the claims from both invention Groups can be examined together, regardless of a different classification. For example, the cross-referencing system in place at the Patent Office allows one to readily find patents which disclose related subject matter. Thus, despite the possible difference in primary class, an Examiner should be able to perform a single search on all of the subject matter, without undue effort.

As part of the Office Action, the Examiner submits that the product of Group II can be made by a process which is "...materially different..." from that of Group I. The technique of reactive infiltration is proffered as an example of the alternative process. Applicant has briefly reviewed "reactive infiltration", and is not sure how the Examiner is equating such a process to that of Group I. (This is not to say that the alternative technique is necessarily outside the scope of the present invention; an in-depth review may have to be undertaken to determine how that technique relates to the present claims). Nevertheless, the undersigned submits that the unique composites of the present invention depend on the fabrication processes recited in claims 1 and 23. This dependency is a further indication that all of the claims are part of a single concept.

Thus, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement, so that all of the claims can be dealt with in this prosecution.

Sincerely,


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3/13/06

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